

HOUSE BILL 2447

By Litz

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary  
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) and substituting instead the following:

(2) The student has attempted at any eligible postsecondary institution a total of one hundred twenty (120) semester hours that have been paid for by a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; or

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) and substituting instead the following:

(2) The student has attempted at any eligible postsecondary institution a total of one hundred thirty-six (136) semester hours that have been paid for by a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; or

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-919(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(2) The student has attempted at any postsecondary institution a total of one hundred twenty (120) semester hours that have been paid for by a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, or if the student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length, one hundred thirty-six (136) semester hours that have been paid for by a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; or

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) To continue to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a student at an eligible postsecondary institution shall continue to meet all applicable requirements for the scholarship and shall reapply for the scholarship upon attempting twenty-four (24) semester hours. Thereafter, a student shall reapply at the end of any semester in which the student has attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours beyond the number of semester hours required at the last reapplication checkpoint. At the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twenty-four (24) semester hours, the student shall have achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 to continue to receive the Tennessee HOPE scholarship. Following the review of eligibility at the end of the semester in which a student has attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours, a student shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of any semester in which eligibility is reviewed to continue to receive the scholarship.

(b) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, who ceases to be academically eligible for the scholarship because the student fails to achieve the cumulative grade point average required at the end of a semester in which eligibility is reviewed, may regain the HOPE scholarship, if the student continues to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the scholarship, attends an eligible postsecondary institution without the HOPE scholarship, achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of any semester in which eligibility would have been reviewed under this section had the student not lost the scholarship, and reapplies for the scholarship. A student who regains the scholarship and then loses the scholarship a second time, by failing to achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of a subsequent semester in which academic qualifications are reviewed, may not regain the scholarship. No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE

scholarship shall be made under this subsection (b) for semester hours attempted in order to regain the scholarship.

(c) If a student ceases to be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship at any time for any nonacademic reason, then the student shall not be able to regain the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) and the definition of semester hour in § 49-4-902 to the contrary, a student may choose to repeat one (1) course one (1) time, and have such student's cumulative grade point average, for the purposes of determining whether the student meets the continuation requirements of subsection (a), calculated as if the only attempt at the course was the attempt in which the highest grade was achieved. Only one (1) course may be repeated for favorable treatment in calculating the grade point average under this subsection (d). TSAC shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this subsection (d). All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916, is amended by deleting the language "49-4-911(c)" and substituting instead the language "49-4-911(b)".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(2) If a student receiving a Tennessee HOPE access grant does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours, but the student, without financial assistance from lottery proceeds, continues to attend an eligible postsecondary institution and achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the semester in which eligibility would have been reviewed under § 49-4-911 had the

student received a HOPE scholarship, then the student shall be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, if the student meets all other applicable requirements. If at the time at which such student achieves academic eligibility, the student meets the requirements of § 49-4-915, then the student shall be eligible for an ASPIRE award.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(f), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(2) The student has attempted at any eligible postsecondary institution a total of one hundred twenty (120) semester hours that have been paid for by a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, or if the student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length, one hundred thirty-six (136) semester hours that have been paid for by a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; or

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-930, is amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(c) Semester hours paid for by a dual enrollment grant shall not count, under § 49-4-913, toward the limitation on the receipt of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-937(c), is amended by deleting the first sentence of the subsection and substituting instead the following language:

Hours paid for by a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant and taken by a student at a Tennessee technology center towards a diploma before receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, General Assembly Merit Scholarship or Tennessee HOPE access grant under the provisions of this section shall not count under the provisions of § 49-4-913 or § 49-4-920 towards the limitation on receipt of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, General Assembly Merit Scholarship or Tennessee HOPE access grant.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to Tennessee HOPE scholarships, General Assembly Merit Scholarships or Tennessee HOPE access grants that are the initial awards of such scholarships or grants to students enrolling in eligible postsecondary institutions on or after July 1, 2008. Tennessee HOPE scholarships, General Assembly Merit Scholarships or Tennessee HOPE access grants which are renewals of scholarships or grants first awarded to students before July 1, 2008, shall be governed by the law as it existed prior to July 1, 2008.